

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ADP-00

ACDA-19 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

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R 162146Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, UN, UK

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT ON NAPALM AND OTHER  
INCENDIARIES

1. UK EMBASSY COUNSELLOR WILBERFORCE CALLED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS JULY 13 ON KIRK (ACDA/IR) AND BLACK (IO/UNP) TO DISCUSS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON NAPALM AND OTHER INCENDIARY WEAPONS. UNDER UNGA RES 2932 A (XXVII) SYG HAS SOLICITED COMMENTS ON REPORT FROM MEMBER GOVTS; HE IS TO REPORT ON SUCH COMMENTS TO 1973 ASSEMBLY SESSION.

2. WILBERFORCE SHOWED US OFFS LONDON INSTRUCTION TELEGRAM WHICH INDICATED HMG WOULD REJECT BAN ON NAPALM PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING AS IMPOSSIBLE TO VERIFY; UK HOWEVER MIGHT CONSIDER QUESTION OF "MORE LIMITED BAN ON USE" OF NAPALM. TELEGRAM EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS NOT  
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DEFINITIVE UK POSITION AND SUGGESTED THAT MATTER COULD USE-

FULLY BE DISCUSSED IN NATO.

3. US OFFS REPLIED THAT USG HAD NOT YET REACHED DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO RESPOND TO SYG'S REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON REPORT. THEY REVIEWED PATTERN OF USG DISSOCIATION FROM REPORT, INCLUDING ABSTENTIONS BOTH ON RES WHICH GAVE RISE TO IT AND RES UNDER WHICH SYG SOLICITED COMMENTS, AS WELL AS NON-PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATION OF REPORT ITSELF. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMED ARGUABLE THAT CONTINUED

DETACHMENT FROM REPORT MIGHT BE BEST APPROACH. ON OTHER HAND, REPLY TO SYG WOULD AFFORD VEHICLE FOR RECORDING OUR SUBSTANTIVE VIEWS ON SIGNIFICANT ISSUE. US OFFS STRESSED THAT NO USG DECISION YET MADE.

4. US OFFS ADDED VIEW THAT NAPALM AND OTHER INCENDIARIES ARE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND SHOULD BE TREATED UNDER THAT HEADING, RATHER THAN BEING PLACED IN SPECIAL CATEGORY, IN ANY SUBSEQUENT UN CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEM. ALSO, QUESTION OF BAN OR LIMITATION ON USE IN OUR VIEW IS ARMS CONTROL ISSUE APPROPRIATE IN FIRST INSTANCE FOR UNGA 1ST (POLITICAL) COMITE AND EVENTUALLY FOR CCD IF ASSEMBLY SO DETERMINES. THEY NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT SWEDES HAVE CIRCULATED IN NEW YORK THEIR REPLY TO SYG WHICH ADVOCATES CONSIDERATION OF NUMBER OF POSSIBLE MEASURES TO BAN OR LIMIT USE OF INCENDIARIES.

5. WILBERFORCE, VERIFYING THAT USG HAD NOT DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT TO RESPOND TO SYG, ASKED TO BE INFORMED OF RESULTS OF CONTINUING CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION. US OFFS AGREED. RUSH

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